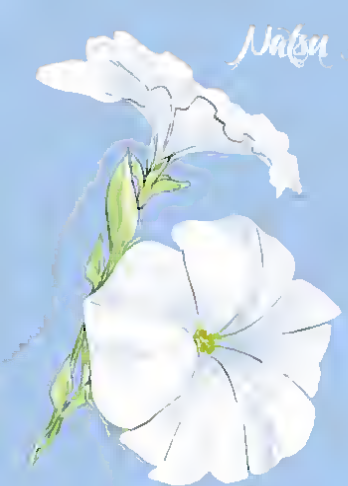

Nakay Scans & Kaizoku Scanz

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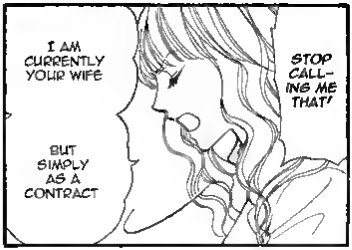
HOPE YOU ENJOY THE RELEASE~

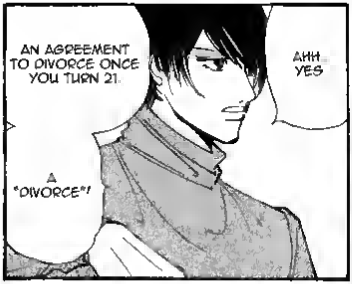
Ogoshi Natsue
小越なつえ
原作／サラ・クレイヴン
若すぎた
THE FORCED BRIDE
伯爵夫人

SFX: CRASH!!
RAFAEL!!!
RA...!
HEY,
EMILY...

BOTHERED TO CHASE AFTER ME?!?!
YOU...
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS
IT'S USELESS TO TRY TO RUN AWAY FROM ME MY WIFE

IT'S A PRETTY NICE COTTAGE
FOR A HIDING PLACE YOU FOUND ONLINE. ITS GREAT.


I AM CURRENTLY YOUR WIFE
BUT SIMPLY AS A CONTRACT
STOP CALL-ING ME THAT!


AN AGREEMENT TO DIVORCE ONCE YOU TURN 21.
A "DIVORCE"!
AHH YES

I LOOKED AT YOUR PC AT THE MANSION IN LONDON.
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO FORGET TO ERASE THE BROWSING HISTORY,
MY LOVE

WE NEED TO TALK.
BUT NOW YOU SAY YOU WANT TO "INVALIDATE OUR MARRIAGE."
THAT'S WHY I MADE MY WAY TO THIS REMOTE COUNTRYSIDE IN SCOTLAND FROM LONDON.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH YOU
I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS THROUGH A LAWYER
GO HOME!
WELL...
CAN I HAVE YOU POUR ME A CUP OF COFFEE?
FINE THEN I'M LEAVING!
GO AHEAD
I'D LET YOU BORROW MY CAR
BUT IT LOOKS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NOBLE PRINCESS TO DRIVE IN THE SNOW
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WALK FOR HOURS

SFX: WHOOSH
ヒュオオオ
IF YOU ARE PREPARED TO GET LOST AND FREEZE TO DEATH, GO AHEAD. I'M NOT STOPPING YOU
AHH. JUST AS I PREDICTED THE WEATHER HAS GOTTEN BAD
I HEARD THIS IS GOING TO CONTINUE FOR A WHILE
WINTER IN THIS AREA IS FREEZING COLD
YOU ALWAYS MAKE THAT FACE TOWARDS ME
AHH... THAT FACE AGAIN
LIKE CRADLING A LITTLE CHILD
AN ATTITUDE OF NOT DEALING WITH ME
GRIN
YOU WILL POUR ME COFFEE RIGHT?
MY SWEET WIFE

I FIRST MET HIM 3 YEARS AGO
I WAS 17
AND... MY HUSBAND
RAFAEL DI SALIS
YOUNG COUNT OF ITALY A GO-GETTER BUSINESS-MAN
SINCE I LOST MY MOTHER TO AN ILLNESS, MY FATHER SHOWERED ME WITH EXTRA LOVE TO MAKE UP FOR MY LOST MOTHER. I WAS A GIRL FULL OF HAPPINESS
WELCOME HOME MISS EMILY!
I'M HOME PENNY! IT'S THE LONG AWAITED CHRISTMAS BREAK! MY FATHER'S IN THE WORK-ROOM RIGHT?
OH... MISS!
SFX: THUD THUD THUD

SFX: SLAM
I'M HOME! FATHER!
HEY, HEY, EMILY
A BREAK FROM DORM LIFE! I'M SO HAPPY! GIVE ME TONS OF KISSES!
OH FATHER, HOW I MISSED YOU!
WELCOME HOME EMILY
WHAT?
EMILY, GET OFF MY LAP,
EMILY, GET OFF MY LAP,
?
DID YOU LOSE WEIGHT FATHER?

PITCH-BLACK HAIR WITH SUCH INTENSE EYES
WHO IS THIS?!
THUMP...
FEELS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE CON-SUMED
SOL GASP
I.. I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T EXPECT A GUEST..
DON'T WORRY, LORD DI SALIS WILL FORGIVE YOU.
RIGHT, RAFAEL?
OF COURSE
THIS IS YOUR DAUGHTER, EMILY CORRECT LORD BLAKE?

SORRY TO INTRUDE ON YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MY FATHER..
NOT EVEN I WOULD WELCOME SUCH FUN INTRUSION ANYTIME
NOT EVEN
NICE TO MEET YOU SIGNORINA.
I AM RAFAEL DI SALIS
PLEASE CALL ME RALPH
SAME TO YOU, COUNT
GRRR
IT WAS CUTE LIKE A PUPPY ROLLING AROUND
O DOG?
SO GO AHEAD AND UNPACK YOUR LUGGAGE LETS HAVE TEA LATER TOGETHER

WOW WE'RE GOING OUT OF OUR WAY FOR THE COUNT
YES SO THIS YEAR, WE'RE INVITING ALL OUR NEIGHBORS AND HAVING A GRAND PARTY
WHAT? THE COUNT IS GOING TO STAY HERE OVER SUMMER?
WELL IT IS YOUR FATHER'S CLOSEST FRIEND
OH YES HE HAS BEEN A GENTLE MAN TO US SERVANTS AS WELL
I GUESS HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON THEN...
IT WASN'T THE FIRST TIME WE HAD A LONG TERM VISITOR.
BUT I COULDN'T KEEP MY MIND OFF OF HIM SINCE THEN.
ARGH! YOU TOO PENNY?
RUUUTTT~ HE CALLED ME A PUPPY!
OH, HE SPEAKS SO WELL.
WELL, WELL..
HE IS MUCH OLDER THAN YOU, MISS EMILY.
BUT HE'S KIND OF RUDE! HE TREATS ME LIKE A KINDERGARTENER.

HE CARRIES A SCHOLARLY AND ELEGANT PRESENCE
WITH A BODY THAT CAN ENVELOPE EVERYTHING
HE'S TALKING TO FATHER
WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO TALK ABOUT DAY AFTER DAY?
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I FELT SUCH A FASCINATION FOR AN ADULT MAN AND I WAS HESITANT

IF HE LOOKED AT ME WITH THOSE EYES...
SUCH SERIOUS EYES...
HE KNEW MY FEELINGS OR NOT...
HE WAS ALWAYS CALM AND COMPOSED WHEN HE SPOKE TO ME
Ahhhhhh What am I thinking?!
SFX: WOOF WOOF!
AHHH!
DON'T JOE! IT'S TICKLISH! STOP!
SFX: WOOF!!
HERE! HERE!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE PUNISHED IF YOU DON'T LISTEN!
WHAT?

pant pant pant
IT'S ONLY BEEN 8 MONTHS SINCE THEY WERE BORN ALTHOUGH THEY'RE PRETTY BIG ALREADY
THEY COME FROM A LARGE BREED OF DOGS
IT'S OUR NEIGHBOR O BREE'S DOG
IS THIS YOUR DOG?
heh heh heh heh
pant pant pant pant
huh huh huh
AREN'T THEY BOTH CUTE?
THIS IS JOE AND SHE IS AMELIA.
I'M SORRY YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR FATHER TO YOURSELF BECAUSE OF ME MISS EMILY
Smirk
WE ARE DONE WITH OUR CONVERSATION SO GO BE PAMPERED
BUT I DO SEE 3 PUPPIES
I AGREE.
MM

SFX: NIBBLE NIBBLE
SFX: HEH, HEH, HEH
YOU KNOW WHAT,
I'LL SHOW HIM DURING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!
ALTHOUGH I WAS STILL A YOUNG CHILD
I WAS HURT BY THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT TREAT ME LIKE AN ADULT
EMILY! YOU LOOK SO GOOD IN YOUR DRESS!
YOU LOOK SO MUCH MORE MATURE
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN LONDON?
HOW'S SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND? AREN'T YOU LONELY?
WANT TO GO TO DINNER WITH ME ONE DAY?
THE GIRL YOU THOUGHT WAS PUPPY-LIKE IS ACTUALLY
PRETTY POPULAR WITH THE BOYS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
HOW'S THIS?!
TURN
HE'S MORE POPULAR THAN ME..
HEY EMILY
CAN YOU INTRODUCE ME TO COUNT DI SALIS? HE'S LIVING WITH YOU RIGHT?
WHAT? YOU KNOW HIM?
HE IS A KNOWN PLAYBOY!
YEAH! THE SUCCESS OF THE FINANCIAL WORLD! OF NOBILITY! HIS LOOKS! HE HAS A MILLION SUITORS!

HEY EMILY, DO YOU WANT TO HANG OUT AFTER THE PARTY?
WHAT?
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE COURT YARD
OKAY?
THAT WOMAN...
AN ACTRESS FROM ITALY..
CORONA VALENTINA! SHE'S HERE TOO?
MY FATHER BROUGHT HER HERE. SHE'S GOING TO BE OUR COMPANY'S EXCLUSIVE MODEL
SHE'S GETTING SO CLOSE TO THE COUNT!
Son of a cosmetic company
WITH SOMEONE SO BEAUTIFUL NEXT TO HIM, HE'S NOT GOING TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO US
SHE'S NOTHING LIKE ME.
WHEN SHE STANDS NEXT TO RALPH, THEY MAKE SUCH A PICTURE
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PERSON

I'M SO STUPID... THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR WEARING SOMETHING I'M NOT USED TO
UH-OHHH...

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME!
I'M SO STUPID! WHY AM I WORRYING ABOUT THIS?
I NEED TO GET BACK TO MY ROOM AND GET A BAND-AID
HOP HOP
HE DOESN'T LOOK AT ME THE SAME WAY
I WONDER WHAT HAP-PENED WITH VALENTINA AFTER THAT
SO THAT'S HOW RALPH LOOKS AT WOMEN

I JUST GOT HOME FROM TAKING VALENTINA HOME
HOW ABOUT YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
HEY EMILY
ARE YOU ALONE?
RALPH...!
YOU HAD A CROWD OF GORGEOUS WOMEN AROUND YOU
YOU WERE SO POPULAR DURING THE PARTY
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO STAY OUT WITH HER FOR THE NIGHT
WHAT?
YOU HAD MANY SUITORS YOURSELF
HE WAS WATCHING?
FROM YOUR REACTIONS I GUESS YOU REJECTED THEM?
ARE YOU STILL AFRAID OF HAVING NIGHTTIME RENDEZVOUS WITH MEN?

WERE YOU THINKING OF ME..?
OR...
I'M NOT AS YOUNG AS YOU THINK I AM!
YEAH, IT'S REALLY RUDE! I ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO CALM MYSELF FROM THE HOT KISS FROM EARLIER
OH, REALLY?
THAT WAS RUDE OF ME
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU BUT YOUR GUESS IS INCORRECT RALPH!
I JUST FINISHED AN AWESOME DATE!

EH?
IT MUST SURELY HAVE BEEN A PAS-SIONATE KISS
EHHH.. OH YEAH DEFI-NITELY!!
THEN CAN YOU LET ME TEST IT OUT EMILY?
CAN YOU SHOW ME?
A KISS SO PASSIONATE THAT MAKES MY BODY BURNING HOT?
AL..
ALRIGHT..

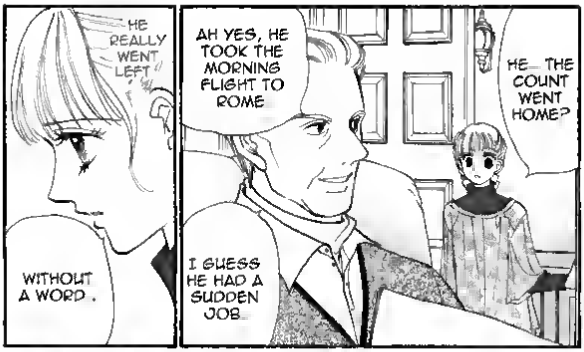
NO EMILY
NOT LIKE THAT
MY FIRST KISS...

SFX: PULL
WHAT?!
!!

IS THIS A KISS? A KISS SO PASSION-ATE?
IT'S NOTH-ING LIKE THE KISS FROM EAR-LIER...
MY BODY IS BURN-ING!
RAL..
RALPH
PANT

A REAL... KISS...?
A REAL ONE...
THIS IS A KISS...
YOU GOT IT?
BUT
IT SEEMS YOU WERE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT.
...!
I HATE YOU!!

HE THINKS MY REACTIONS ARE FUNNY AND LAUGHS!
SO RUDE! SO RUDE! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
I HOPE HE GOES BACK TO ITALY SOON!
A KISS THAT MAKES YOUR BODY HOT
THAT NIGHT, MY BODY WAS BURNING FROM THE KISS
I SPENT A NIGHT WITHOUT ANY SLEEP
WHAT!?


HE REALLY WENT LEFT?
WITHOUT A WORD.
AH YES, HE TOOK THE MORNING FLIGHT TO ROME
I GUESS HE HAD A SUDDEN JOB.
HE— THE COUNT WENT HOME?

OH
HE'S COMING AGAIN?
HE SAID HE WANTED A PICTURE WITH THE DOGS WHEN HE VISITS AGAIN
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SLEEPING PAST NOON EMILY.

EMILY, DID YOU NOT LIKE HIM?

NO— I DIDN'T MEAN THAT!
EH?
I CAN'T HATE HIM IF HE IS A FRIEND THAT YOU TRUST.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE HIM.
AFTER HE DID THAT?

I'M ASKING HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HIM.
DO YOU LIKE HIM?
EH
FLASH!
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY FATHER!
WAS IT TOO ABRUPT?
I APOLOGIZE
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY ASKING ME THIS?!
IT'S FINE BUT FATHER?
I'M JUST TIRED FROM YESTERDAY I'M NOT YOUNG ANY MORE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE A BIT PALE
YOU REST IN YOUR ROOM
YEAH, I'LL DO THAT
THE COUNT'S VOICE THAT TEASING GRIN THAT KISS
EVEN AFTER GOING BACK TO BOARDING SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND I COULDN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY MIND

SFX: RATTLE
カラ
WHEN I WENT BACK TO LONDON ON THE NEWS THAT MY FATHER HAD FALLEN ILL
THE NEXT TIME I SAW HIM WAS 6 MONTHS LATER
Thud thud thud
EMILY
RALPH

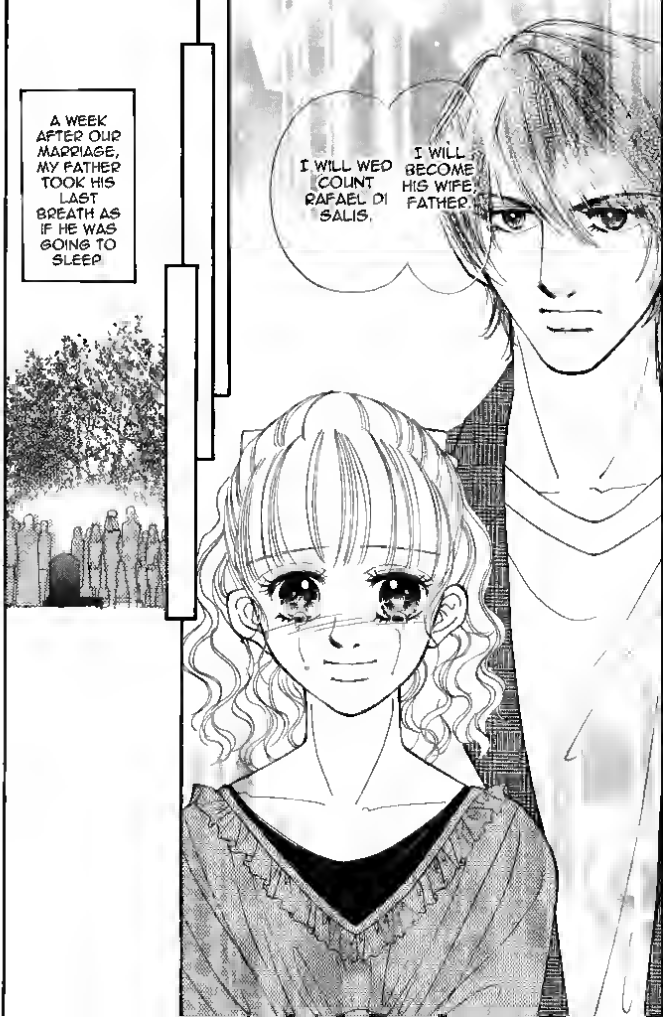
HE HAS TERMINAL CEREBRAL TUMOR
YOUR FATHER HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED OF HIS CONDITION
NO WAY...
HE PROBABLY WON'T LAST ANOTHER MONTH...
HE SHOWED SYMPTOMS...
WHY DIDN'T I NOTICE?
SFX: GRAB
MY BELOVED FATHER IS GOING TO LEAVE ME...
LET'S STAY WITH YOUR FATHER UNTIL THE END...
BOTH OF US TOGETHER...

EMI-LY,
YOU WILL INHERIT ALL MY FORTUNE
BUT YOU ARE STILL YOUNG
THERE WILL BE MEN WHO WILL BE OUT TO GET YOU FOR THE INHERITANCE. I WANT TO PRO-TECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES
THAT'S WHY I INVITED THE COUNT OVER DURING CHRIST-MAS BREAK TO CONSULT THE MATTER.
AND HE GAVE ME A SUG-GESTION-
A SUG-GES-TION?
WHAT'S THE SUG-GES-TION?

I NEVER FELT MORE SUP-PORTED BY HIS PRES-ENCE...
STRONG ARMS HELD ME UP FROM THE TRUTH OF REALITY

YOU WILL BECOME MY WIFE.
YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY ME, EMILY.
MAR-RIAGE?
YOU... YOU AND I?!
OF COURSE. IT IS SIMPLY A CONTRACT I'M NOT SAYING WE WILL BE A REAL COUPLE
I WILL TRUST HIM TO MANAGE YOUR TRUST FUND UNTIL YOU ARE 21 YEARS OF AGE
HE WILL LEGALLY BE YOUR HUSBAND AND GUARDIAN
THIS WAY, MEN WITH BAD INTENTIONS WILL NOT TARGET YOUR INHERITANCE
AS SOON AS YOU TURN 21, YOU WILL DIVORCE AND BE FREE

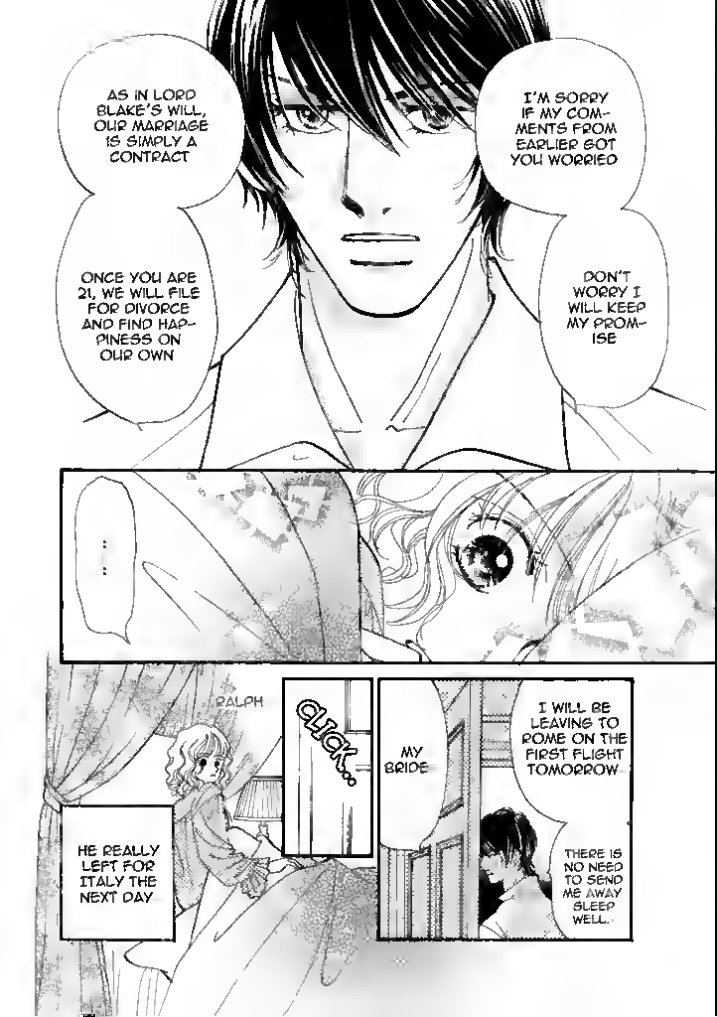
I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORRY OR BE SAD
PLEASE ACCEPT HIS HAND IN MARRIAGE AND GIVE ME PEACE OF MIND
EMI -LY
YOU ARE MY ONLY CONCERN
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?
I OWE YOUR DAD MUCH MORE THAN I CAN GIVE
NOW, I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY DOING THIS FOR HIM
THIS WAY, I CAN MEET YOUR MOTHER IN HEAVEN WITHOUT ANY REGRETS
FATHER ——…!
YES FATHER
I UNDER- STAND


A WEEK AFTER OUR MARRIAGE, MY FATHER TOOK HIS LAST BREATH AS IF HE WAS GOING TO SLEEP.
I WILL WED COUNT RAFAEL DI SALIS.
I WILL BECOME HIS WIFE, FATHER.

FEW DAYS AFTER HIS FUNERAL,
WE SUBMITTED OUR MARRIAGE LICENSE AND HAD A SMALL CEREMONY.
WE WERE LEGALLY HUSBAND AND WIFE
A HONEYMOON?
YES,
I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO MY MANSION IN ITALY AS WELL.
TO MIMIC A LOVING COUPLE AFTER A MARRIAGE?
WE ARE SIMPLY MARRIAGE FOR CONVENIENCE, S FATHER'S WILL STATED.
IT DOES NOT MATTER IF WE LOVE OR ARE LOVED BY ONE ANOTHER.
.....
I DON T BELIEVE IN SUCH MIRACLE!
FINE, I'LL DISMISS THE HONEYMOON IDEA.
IT WILL HELP SINCE I'M BUSY AS WELL.

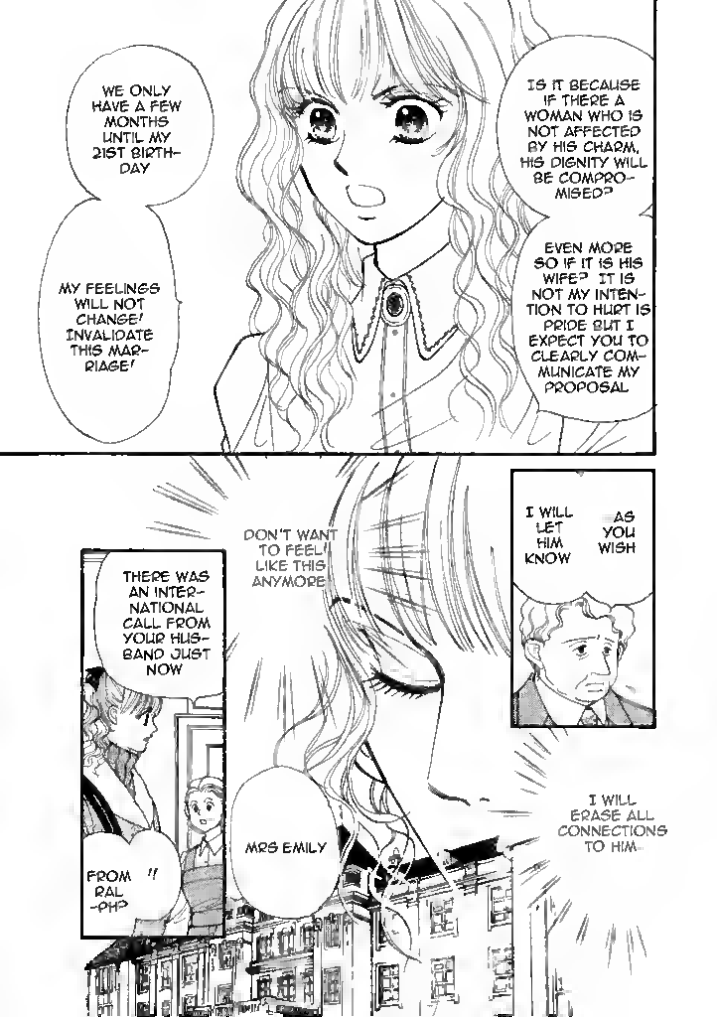
ALTHOUGH ONLY ON PAPER,
WE ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE
THE HOUSE YOU GREW UP IN
I REALLY DO WANT TO SEE IT
WHERE SHOULD I SLEEP TONIGHT?
ALONE IN THE GUEST ROOM?
OR SPEND THE WEDDING NIGHT WITH MY NEWLY WED WIFE IN HER BED
I GUESS THAT FACE YOU SHOW DOESN'T CHANGE EVEN AFTER WE GET MARRIED
GOOD NIGHT, MY WIFE
I'M JUST KIDDING
YOU ARE CUTE AS USUAL
IN THE GUEST ROOM! WE ARE NOT A REAL COUPLE!
WH...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IF HE SAID HE WANTED ME...
OH, BUT IF...
IF HE REALLY CAME TO MY ROOM
I...
CLICK..
SFX: THUMP THUMP
OMG, IS IT REALLY?
YOU ARE AWAKE, RIGHT EMILY?


I'M SORRY IF MY COMMENTS FROM EARLIER GOT YOU WORRIED
DON'T WORRY I WILL KEEP MY PROMISE
AS IN LORD BLAKE'S WILL, OUR MARRIAGE IS SIMPLY A CONTRACT
ONCE YOU ARE 21, WE WILL FILE FOR DIVORCE AND FIND HAPPINESS ON OUR OWN
...
I WILL BE LEAVING TO ROME ON THE FIRST FLIGHT TOMORROW
MY BRIDE
CLICK...
THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND ME AWAY SLEEP WELL.
RALPH
HE REALLY LEFT FOR ITALY THE NEXT DAY

OVER A CONTRACT, THE COUPLE LIVED TWO SEPARATE LIVES, AS EXPECTED
IN THE BEGINNING, WE EXCHANGED MAIL NOTIFYING EACH OTHER OF OUR STATUS
GORGEOUS GIFTS ARRIVED ON MY BIRTHDAY AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS
BUT HE NOT ONCE COME TO VISIT ME
It's a gift for getting accepted to College of the Arts
MEANWHILE, THE TABLOIDS WROTE THIS AND THAT ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH WOMEN
MY PRIDE PREVENTED ME FROM GOING TO SEE HIM
TWO YEARS PASSED AND WHEN I THOUGHT ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION FROM HIM WERE LOST—
"CLARA VALENTINO AND COUNT DI SALIS MEET FOR A SECRET RENDEZVOUS IN LONDON"
Clandestine
lovers

RALPH WAS IN LONDON
.....
WITH THAT ACTRESS...
YES, MARRIED AS A CONTRACT
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO HE DATES
IT IS HIS CHOICE TO SEE ME OR NOT
BUT...
WHAT IS IT? COUNTESS!
INSTEAD OF A DIVORCE, YOU WANT TO INVALIDATE THE MARRIAGE?
BUT COUNTESS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSITION!
I WILL LEAVE THE PROCEDURE TO YOU
IN THE FUTURE, INSTEAD OF A DIVORCEE, I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO WED THROUGH A CHURCH AS MY FIRST MARRIAGE
HE CAN CRUSH YOU IN A SINGLE MOVE
THAT IS LIKE CHALLENGING HIM TO A DUEL


WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MONTHS UNTIL MY 21ST BIRTH-DAY
MY FEELINGS WILL NOT CHANGE! INVALIDATE THIS MAR-RIAGE!
IS IT BECAUSE IF THERE A WOMAN WHO IS NOT AFFECTED BY HIS CHARM, HIS DIGNITY WILL BE COMPRO-MISED?
EVEN MORE SO IF IT IS HIS WIFE? IT IS NOT MY INTEN-TION TO HURT IS PRIDE BUT I EXPECT YOU TO CLEARLY COM-MUNICATE MY PROPOSAL
I WILL LET HIM KNOW
AS YOU WISH
DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE THIS ANYMORE
THERE WAS AN INTER-NATIONAL CALL FROM YOUR HUS-BAND JUST NOW
I WILL ERASE ALL CONNECTIONS TO HIM
MRS EMILY
FROM RAL -PH?

HE SAID HE WILL "HEAD OVER TO LONDON WITHIN 2 DAYS."
HE "WANTS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER."
WAS HE ANGRY?
YES...
HE SPOKE ELEGANTLY BUT,
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HEARING HIM,
WITH SUCH ANGRY TONE IN HIS VOICE!
LIKE THE LAWYER SAID, HE'S "REALLY GOING TO COMPETE WITH ME!"
IF HE COME HERE AND DIRECTLY TALKS TO ME, I HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING!
I NEED TO RUN!
I CAN'T USE A PASSPORT BECAUSE IT WILL TRACK WHERE I AM.
IF I DISAPPEAR FOR 2 WEEKS HE WILL GIVE UP.
SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

I THOUGHT EVERY-THING WAS PERFECT
I WAS STILL TOO NAIVE
click
reserve
THE COT
CES
A COT-TAGE IN SCOT-LAND
IT'S A SMALL TOWN THAT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF..
I WAS CAUGHT WITHOUT A HASSLE AND STUCK HERE WITH HIM AS HE WANTED
IS THE BOILER IN THE BASEMENT? WHERE IS THE HOUSEHOLD GENERATOR??
THERE IS NONE. WE SHOULD PREPARE CANDLES
THE MAN-AGER TOLD ME THAT BLACKOUTS HAPPEN OFTEN DURING BAD WEATHER
THEN THE AMOUNT OF BATH WATER WILL BE LIMITED AS WELL,
SINCE WE NEED ENOUGH FOR TWO

ガチャ
PLUS THIS COTTAGE HAS TWO ROOMS WE ARE SLEEPING SEPARATELY...
SO LET'S GET TO THE MAIN TOPIC AND GET BACK TO WORK
I WILL NOT!
THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH WARM WATER
WANT TO BATHE TOGETHER?
IT'S MORE EFFICIENT
WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU RUNNING AWAY WOULD SPARK THE CONVERSATION?
MAIN TOPIC HUH
NOPE, NOT AT ALL
IT SEEMS THAT YOU ARE BUSY DEALING WITH WORK AND THE WOMEN AROUND YOU
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D CHASE AFTER ME
YOU DON'T KNOW MEN VERY WELL DO YOU?
WE WILL DISCUSS THIS TOMORROW EMILY

GOOD NIGHT
I'M TIRED FROM DRIVING IN THE SNOW I'M GOING TO REST
I'M GOING TO USE THE SHOWER FIRST
I SET IT UP SO I CAN TAKE 2 WEEKS OFF WORK
YOU SHOULD BE CALMER BY TOMORROW WE HAVE AMPLE TIME
.....
SLAM
THE SNOWFALL IS GETTING HEAVIER
ARE WE GOING TO BE STUCK HERE TOGETHER?
CLICK
?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?

RALPH?!
SLAM!
DO.
DO YOU WANT SOME-THING?

WHY?
THE DATE CHANGED ALREADY
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO TALK TOMORROW.
WHAT?
I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU
THIS MARRIAGE IS SIMPLY A CONTRACT!
WE WE PROMISED
THUD
PROMISE?
YOU BROKE THE CONTRACT FIRST
I WAS SURPRISINGLY PATIENT TOWARDS YOU
BUT YOU REPLIED TO MY PATIENCE BY TRYING TO INVALIDATE OUR MARRIAGE
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE SUCH INSULT
AHH

I WILL TEACH YOU BEFORE WE DIVORCE
THE JOY OF A REAL MARRIED LIFE!
I WAS STUPID!
NOOO!
RIP
STOP!!
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR GETTING HIM ANGRY
STOP..
THREE YEARS AGO, YOU WERE STILL A SCARED LITTLE CHILD
BUT YOU ARE ALMOST 21 NOW
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
GRUNT

THAT SAME KISS
THE SAME AS BEFORE
EMILY
FLINCH
AHH!
PLEASE! I DON'T WANT THIS!
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO BE ROUGH
JUST GIVE IN
PLE-ASE!
IF
IF YOU WANT ME YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT FORCE-FULLY!
BY PUNCH-ING ME! BY HOLD-ING ME DOWN!

DO AS YOU LIKE!
BUT JUST REMEMBER THIS!
I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU FOR BREAKING YOUR PROMISE THE NIGHT OF OUR WEDDING!
EVEN IF YOU TAKE MY BODY, YOU CAN'T TAKE MY HEART. NOW, AND FOREVER!

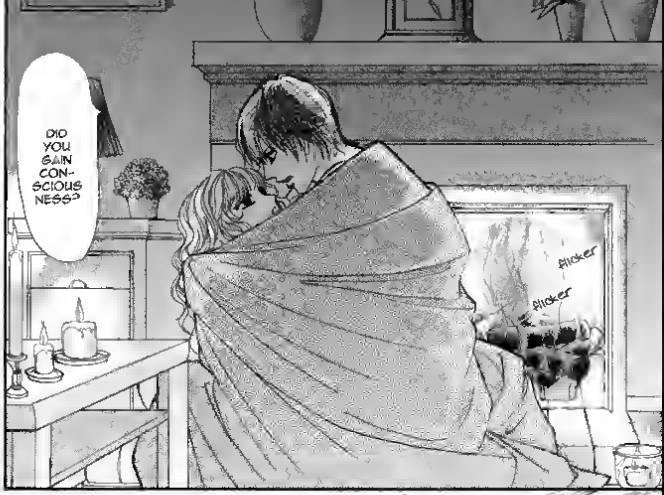
SLAM
THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY VIOLENCE
OHHH...
WHAT HE SAID WILL BECOME REALITY FOR SURE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
shiver
I WILL MAKE YOU WANT ME FALL FOR ME LIKE ALL THE OTHER WOMEN
I WON'T RUSH. I WILL TAKE MY TIME
THEN... LET ME PROMISE YOU SOMETHING ELSE...

I CAN'T TAKE THAT!
IF I STAY HERE WITH HIM, I WILL SLEEP WITH HIM...
AND EVENTUALLY YEARN HIM!
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T HAVE RECEPTION AND COULDN'T USE THE CELLPHONE IN THE COTTAGE,
I'LL WALK STRAIGHT ON THIS PATH, I SHOULD GET TO THE TOWN.
I CAN CALL FOR HELP USING A PUBLIC PHONE ONCE I GET TO THE TOWN
BUT ONCE I TURN 21, HE WILL LEAVE ME!

I MUST LEAVE BEFORE TH T H PPENS RIGHT NOW! FAST!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?
IT'S JUST LIKE MY FUTURE
OMG I CAN'T SEE AHEAD
MOTHER AND FATHER ARE GONE
I'M ALL ALONE
RALPH?

I WANT TO HOLD YOU FOREVER
AHH SUCH STRONG ARMS
OH!
DON'T LEAVE ME
WAIT!
I WAS WAITING
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME SEE ME?
EVER SINCE THE FIRST DAY I MET YOU
RALPH!
LOOK AT ME!

I LOVED YOU!!
EMILY!?
I LO..


DID YOU GAIN CONSCIOUSNESS?
flicker
flicker

!!
...
WHAT HAPPENED...
I WAS HEADING TO TOWN

NOO!!
WAIT, DON'T MOVE I WON'T DO ANYTHING!
THERE IS A BLACKOUT AND THE HEATER IS BROKEN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME!
I GOT CAUGHT AGAIN, HUH..
I GOT LOST
WAS THE ONLY WAY TO WARM UP YOUR COLD BODY.
STAY LIKE THIS FOR A LITTLE WHILE OKAY?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REALLY LEAVE
YOU ARE WORSE THAN A 3 YEAR OLD
shocker
AND YOU WANT TO SAY THIS RIGHT—
"IT'S USE-LESS TO TRY TO GET AWAY FROM ME."
YEAH.
YOU KNOW ME SO WELL.

OKAY NOW, JUST RELAX..
GO TO SLEEP. MORNING WILL COME SOON
WHY DO YOUR ARMS TO COMFORTING IT'S SO WARM..
IF I CAN JUST STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER

MM..
WHEN DID I GET INTO BED?
MY BODY IS SO HEAVY
I HAVE A FEVER...
I M IN MY NEG-LIGEE WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
!!
I I DON'T HAVE UNDER-WEAR ON?
BLUSH
ARE YOU OKAY TO UP?
EMILY?
I MADE YOU A MEAL
CAN YOU EAT?
!!

カチャ
I CHANGED YOU INTO IT
AH-H...
THE ELECTRICITY IS BACK UP AND WE CAN USE THE LAUNDRY ROOM SO I LEFT IT THERE
THIS NEGLIGEE THAT I'M WEARING...
UMM...
AND MY UNDERWEAR...
YOU WILL HAVE A FEVER.
IT'S GOOD.
HE'S BACK TO TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD
I LOSE IF I LOOK FLUSTERED!
THE FOOD YOU MADE ME LAST NIGHT WAS GOOD TOO
THANK YOU
CAN YOU MAKE FOOD FOR ME AGAIN ONCE YOU ARE BETTER?
COME ON, DON'T BE SO ANGRY AND EAT.
I APOLOGIZE FOR UNDRESSING YOU BUT I HAD TO.
HOWEVER, IT IS FOOD FOR THE ILL, MADE FROM WHAT WAS IN THE FRIDGE.

TO... DO "THE TRUE JOY OF MARRIED LIFE"
AS LONG AS I M SICK AND IN BED, YOU WILL NOT FORCE ME
I'M NOT GOING TO GET BETTER
OH REALLY?
IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY CONSCIOUS. IF YOU SAY YOU WANT IT
I WILL TAKE IT FROM YOU WITH-OUT MERCY
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON ME SO MUCH!?
!!
YOU HAVE A MORE MATURE BEAUTIFUL GIRLFRIEND!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT VALEN-TINA?
YES I AM! I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER AND MAGA-ZINES THAT SHE IS THE NEXT RUNNER UP TO THE COUNTESS..!

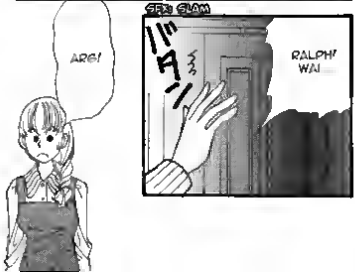
I WILL MAKE YOU FALL FOR ME.
YES.
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HER IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS SO STAY OUT OF IT.
SO YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT
DO YOU REMEMBER THE PROMISE FROM LAST NIGHT?
EMILY
I CAN'T HAVE TO RUNNING AWAY AGAIN IN THE SNOWSTORM
HOWEVER YOU HAVE TO STOP WANTING TO INVALIDATE OUR MARRIAGE
LIKE OUR ORIGINAL CONTRACT WE WILL DIVORCE ON YOUR 21ST BIRTHDAY
LET'S VOID THAT PROMISE

I HAVE ONE MORE CONDITION
creak
RALPH I'M SORRY
I UNDERSTAND
YOU DESPERATELY SEARCHED FOR ME
YOU MIGHT GET SICK..
YOU KISS ME I WILL ASK FOR NO MORE
IT DOESN'T MATTER
I WILL NEVER ENTER YOUR ROOM AGAIN

EVEN IF HE WERE TO LEAVE ME THERE WILL BE VERY LITTLE DAMAGE
IT'S OKAY, ITS JUST A KISS
3 DAYS LATER
EMILY! ARE YOU OKAY TO BE UP?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M DOING CHORES
CLEANING AND MAKING STEW.
I'M MUCH BETTER THANKS TO YOUR HELP
YOU RECOVER FAST WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG
DID YOU GO SHOVEL SNOW?
YEAH. THERE'S NO END TO IT...
BUT IF IT'S JUST TO TOWN, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DRIVE
I CAN GET FOOD WHEN I GO CONTACT WORK
I WANT TO G..
NO
YOU JUST GOT BETTER. I CAN'T LET YOU OUT IN THE FREEZING COLD OR THE CROWD

THE COTTAGE HAD NO TV OR COMPUTER AND THERE IS NO CELLPHONE RECEPTION.



THE MORE I WAS ATTRACTED TO HIS HIM
ALL THE WHILE CARRYING THAT TEASING SMILE OF HIS
WHILE COMPLETING CHORES, HAVING DINNER AND DRINKING WINE.
TO MAKE UP FOR IT, WE HAD MANY CONVERSATIONS
WE SHARED STORIES OF MY FATHER, RALPH'S HISTORY, AND LEARNED THAT HE LOST BOTH HIS PARENTS
HE SHARED STORIES OF HIS BIRTH AND THE HOME HE GREW UP IN.
THE MORE I LEARNED ABOUT HIM

OR HIS "RELATIONSHIP WITH VALENTINO"
I DARED NOT TO ASK ABOUT "THE DEBT TO MY FATHER"
BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
EMILY,
THUMP
EMILY.
YEAH?
SIT THERE

DOES YOUR HEART STILL REJECT ME THE SAME WAY AS BEFORE?
YES BUT...
THAT WAS BECAUSE I REFUSED SUCH A RELATIONSHIP
"
OUR MARRIAGE IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS, CORRECT?
WE ARE MARRIED UPON A CONTRACT WITHOUT ANY SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP
UMM... YEAH
EMILY
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN OPEN YOUR HEART TO ME?
A SOFT SMILE...
WARM, SENSITIVE HEART PAST HIS INTENSE EYES
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I SEE SUCH AN EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...
I NEED TO STOP HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!
NO!

I DE-CLINE YOUR OFFER
ARE YOU BREAKING YOUR PROMISE AGAIN?
I EXPECT YOU TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE TO MY FATHER COUNT

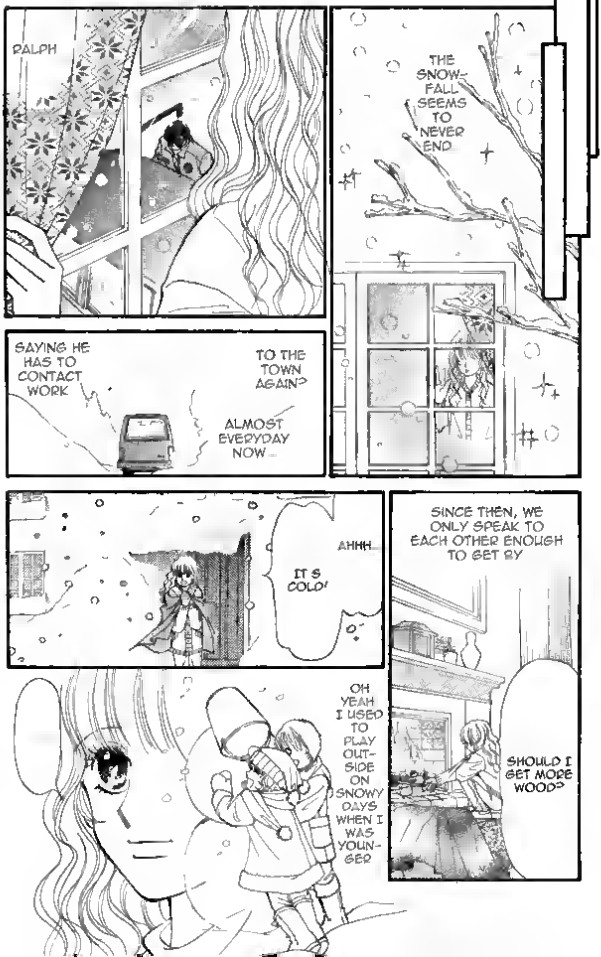
I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE LOVE WITH YOU TO-NIGHT
NOTHING LIKE HOW YOU FELT THE OTHER NIGHT
I WANT TO TEACH YOU
HOW WON-DERFUL IT CAN BE
BEFORE I FALL FOR HIM AND BE CRUSHED!!

IT'S USELESS TO CONTINUE TRYING!
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN CONTROL ALL WOMEN WHO FALL FOR YOUR CHARM
HOWEVER, YOU CAN'T CONTROL ME
DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE EYES!
I UNDERSTAND COUNTESS

WITH A FEW MONTHS LEFT,
LETS FOLLOW THE CON-TRACT UNTIL YOUR BIRTH-DAY
ONCE THE SNOW STOPS FALLING AND WE CAN HEAD HOME, LETS GET BACK TO OUR NORMAL ROUTINE AND WAIT FOR THE DAY OF THE DIVORCE

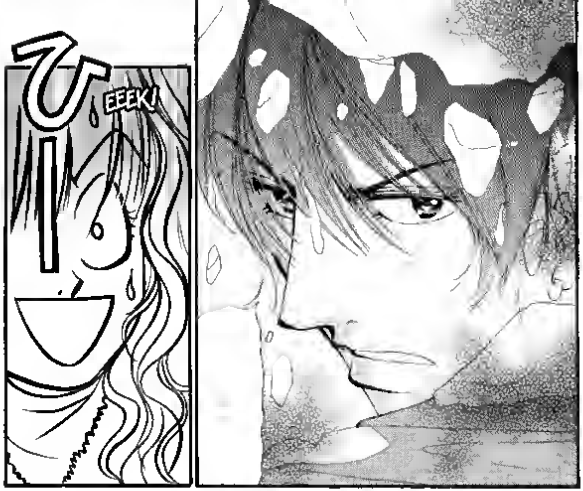
JUST LIKE HE SAID, LETS WAIT FOR THE 21ST BIRTHDAY

EMILY, THIS IS FINE


RALPH
THE SNOW-FALL SEEMS TO NEVER END
SAYING HE HAS TO CONTACT WORK
TO THE TOWN AGAIN?
ALMOST EVERYDAY NOW...
AHHH...
IT'S COLD!
SINCE THEN, WE ONLY SPEAK TO EACH OTHER ENOUGH TO GET BY
SHOULD I GET MORE WOOD?
OH YEAH I USED TO PLAY OUT-SIDE ON SNOWY DAYS WHEN I WAS YOUN-GER

COUNT WHITEY DI SALIS,
RALPH'S YOUNGER BROTHER!
LET'S SEE. YOU'RE PALE SO WHITEY!
YOU'RE PRETTY HANDSOME!
I SHALL GIVE YOU A NAME.
YES! I'M DONE!
BUT WHENEVER THERE IS SOMETHING HE DOESN'T LIKE, HE ACTS COLD AND STUBBORN
YOU KNOW, YOUR BROTHER ALWAYS ACTS MATURE IN FRONT OF ME,
HE THINKS ALL THE GIRLS IN THE WORLD ARE HIS
I'M AN ONLY CHILD!
DON'T FOLLOW WHAT YOUR BROTHER DOES, OKAY?

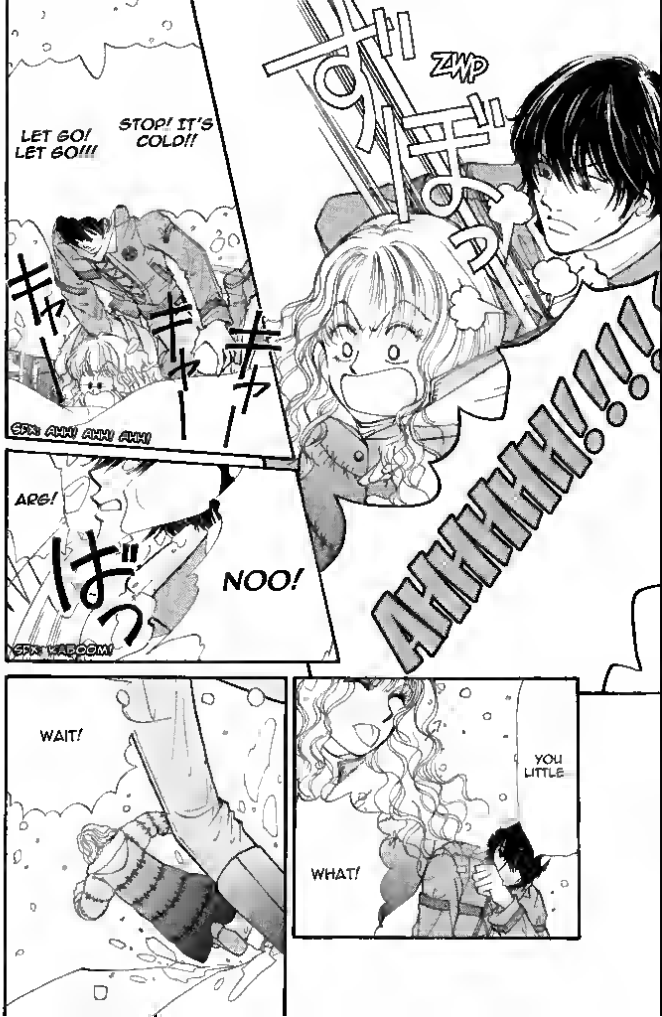
EVEN IF I WERE TO HAVE A BROTHER HE WOULDN'T BE SO UGLY
ARE YOU REALLY AN ART STUDENT?
YOU HAVE NO SENSE
YOU FAIL FOR SURE!
hmph
SWOOSH!!
HOW RUDE!
SFX: WUMP WUMP
SFX: BUMP
SFX: SLIP
clench


EEEK!

I—
I'M SORRY!!!
thump
thump
thump

YOU HAVE GUTS TO CHALLENGE ME!
RAL
RALPH..

I DIDN'T THINK IT'D HIT YOU
AHHH!


LET GO! LET GO!!!
STOP! IT'S COLD!!
キャー
ギャー
キャー
SFX: AHH! AHH! AHH!
ZWP
AHHHHH!!!!
ARG!
NOO!
SFX: KABOOM!
WAIT!
YOU LITTLE
WHAT!

АЧИ!
НАНАНА

Pant
Pant
Pant

I GUESS I'M A KID AFTER ALL

ADULTS CONTROL THEIR DESIRES
BUT I CAN'T
I DO WANT YOU AFTER ALL

THE ONE I LOVE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE RALPH...
YOU SAID YOU WOULD NEVER ENTER MY ROOM AGAIN...

THIS ISN'T YOUR ROOM.
BUT WHAT YOU DID TO ME IS AGAINST THE RULES.
YOU TAUGHT ME THE "TRUE JOY OF MARRIAGE"
IT WAS JUST A BEGINNING
IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME. I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT KNOWING
EMILY..
THE SNOW WILL STOP SOON AND WE CAN LEAVE BY TOMORROW
I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME TO MY MANSION IN ROME.
LET'S EXTEND OUR CONTRACT
I WANT TO CONTINUE OUR RELATIONSHIP PAST YOUR 21ST BIRTHDAY
WHY...?

I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY
YOU ARE FINALLY OPENING UP YOUR HEART TO ME
MY BEAUTIFUL BRIDE..
"I'LL MAKE YOU FALL FOR ME"?
YES THAT'S RIGHT
BUT ITS NOT BECAUSE YOU "LOVE ME"
EXTENSION OF OUR MARRIAGE CONTRACT
YOU KEPT YOUR OTHER PROMISE
WILL YOU NULL THE CONTRACT WHEN YOU ARE TIRED OF ME?
I WON'T REBEL AGAINST YOU
TAKE ME TO ITALY TO A HONEYMOON

THEN I SHALL BE YOUR SWEET WIFE UNTIL THAT DAY
EVEN IF IT IS SHORT, I WILL ENGRAVE THE MEMORY OF US TOGETHER IN MY HEART
AT THE MANSION IN ROME...
I WAS WARMLY WELCOMED AS THE "SWEET, YOUNG WIFE."
ALTHOUGH HE WAS BUSY, RALPH PUT ME INTO CONSIDERATION SO I WAS NEVER LONELY
THANKS TO HIM, I EASILY TRANSITIONED INTO LIVING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE THIS TO HAP-PEN-
THE TIME I SPEND WITH RALPH,
WAS ONE OF HAPPI-EST MO-MENTS OF MY LIFE-
AND-

CONGRATU-LATIONS!
YOU ARE ON YOUR 7TH WEEK.
RALPH IS ALWAYS CAREFUL.
IS IT REALLY?
IT'S THAT ONE TIME...!
WHEN WE MADE LOVE IN THE COT-TAGE!
...!
OHH GOD.

RALPH...
I'M PREGNANT. IT'S YOUR CHILD...
DAMMIT I MESSED UP
YOU LOVE ME?
I DON'T HAVE SUCH EMOTION
IF YOU BEAR A CHILD, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED BUT TO CONTINUE OUR MARRIAGE
BUT DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME, I HAVE NO FEELINGS FOR YOU ANYMORE
EMILY!
YOU ARE CUTE AS USUAL
헉!
아!

RALPH.
YOU WERE MOANING. ARE YOU OKAY?
OH, WHAT?
ISN'T IT AN IMPORTANT PARTY HOSTED BY THE COUNSELOR?
YOU SHOULDN'T ATTEND THE PARTY TONIGHT
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T WELCOME YOU HOME.
I'LL GET READY IMMEDIATELY
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?

NO, IT'S NOTHING.
IS THIS DRESS WEIRD ON ME?
WH WHAT?
I CAN'T TELL HIM...
THAT DREAM WILL PROBABLY BE TRUE
chatter
chatter
GOOD EVENING, COUNTESS.

SHE S BEAUTI-FUL AS BEFORE
GOOD EVENING MS CO-RONA
I FINALLY GET TO MEET YOU
VALENTINA
LIKE RALPH TOLD ME. YOU ARE VERY CUTE
THAT DRESS LOOKS GOOD ON YOU
SMIRK
I KNOW HIS TYPE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE
BUT YOU SHO-ULD CON-SULT ME NEXT TIME
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO THOUGHT-FUL.
BUT SO MEAN..
SHE'S BEAUTI-FUL..

HE'LL PROBABLY JUST SAY TO WEAR A DRESS THAT'S EASY TO REMOVE
BUT IT'S FINE. I'LL ASK MY HUSBAND DIRECTLY IN BED TONIGHT
HOW WAS YOUR SNOW-FILLED HONEYMOON IN SCOTLAND? WAS IT FUN?
OH, YEAH
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
WE WERE CONTACTING EACH OTHER DURING THE TRIP
...!
DION'T HE LEAVE FOR TOWN ONCE IN A WHILE DURING THE TRIP?
HE WAS GIVING ME A CALL
TO DISCUSS ADULT-MATTERS IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
VALENTINA!

HEY EMILY, HOW ARE YOU DOING?
I HAVE THE GIFT FROM MY TRIP TO THE CARIB-BEAN
FIONA!
OH RALPH!
I WAS JUST TALKING TO YOUR CUTE, LITTLE WIFE
EMILY, FIONA'S HERE
OH, THAT'S GREAT
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
SORRY FIONA, MY HAIRCLIP IS FALLING OFF...
!!
VALEN-TINA...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU DARLING

IS THERE ANYWHERE WE CAN BE ALONE?
HOW ABOUT THE COURT-YARD?
THAT SOUNDS FINE
I WON'T TAKE TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME
I UNDER-STAND. YOU CAN'T WORRY YOUR LITTLE WIFE
NOO— STOP RALPH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I DIDN'T SEE YOU DURING PART OF THE NIGHT...
WHERE WERE YOU?
I HAD AN IMPOR-TANT CON-VERSA-TION WITH A CLIENT
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS

RALPH..
I'M NOT TIRED
EMILY?
ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU TIRED?
WERE YOU MAKING LOVE TO VALENTINO IN THE COURTYARD?
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY REST EARLY TONIGHT
I WANT TO YOU TO LOVE ME MORE THAN USUAL
EMILY..

SLAM
I'M GOING TO BE STUCK IN THE WORKROOM EVERY NIGHT FROM NOW ON SO PLEASE HEAD TO BED BEFORE ME.
I'M SORRY BUT I HAVE TONS OF WORK TO FINISH.
I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB YOUR SLEEP SO I'LL USE THE BED IN THE GUEST ROOM.
THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO SLEEP IN SEPARATE BEDS?
GOOD NIGHT.
IT'S USELESS TO TRY TO WAIT UP FOR ME ALL NIGHT. JUST GIVE UP AND GO TO BED.
LISTEN TO ME! OKAY?
WHAT? I'LL BE FINE!

BUT NOW HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO HOLD ME.
I EXPERIENCED JOY AND HAPPINESS IN HIS ARMS MANY NIGHTS
NO MATTER HOW BUSY HE GOT HE WANTED ME EVERY NIGHT
LADY EMILY
EVEN WHEN HE CAME BACK TO THE MANSION...
DAYS PAST WITHOUT HIS RETURN
PHONE CONVERSATIONS WERE CUT SHORT SAYING HE WAS BUSY
OH...
HIS NEGOTIATIONS FOR WORK IS TAKING A WHILE SO HE WILL BE STAYING IN ROME FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS
THERE WAS A MESSAGE FROM LORD DI SALIS

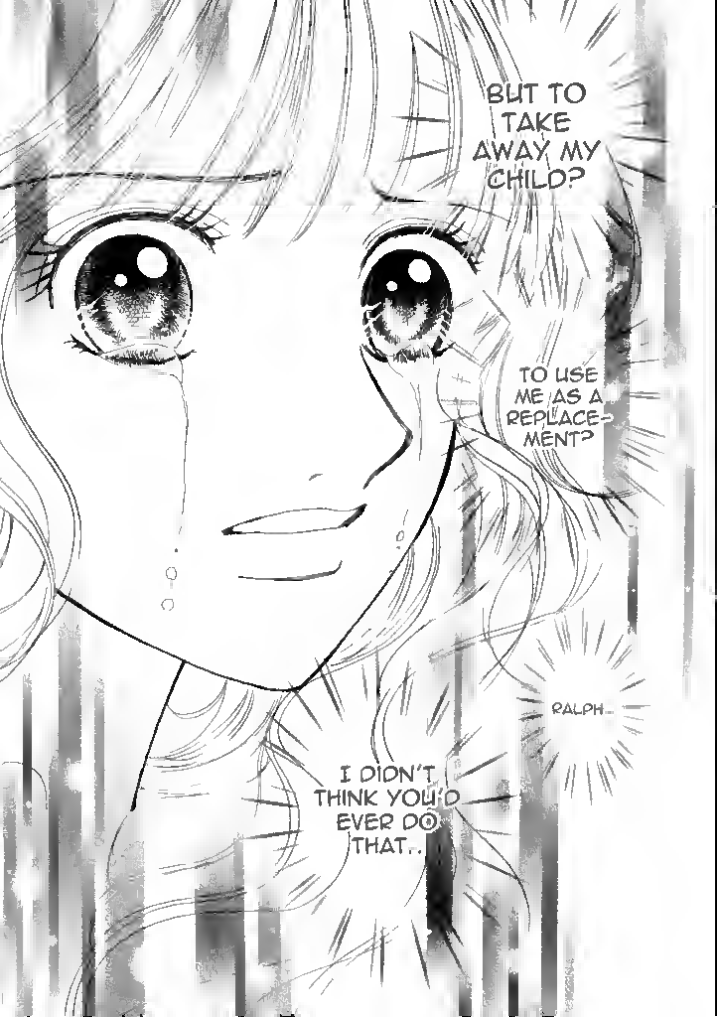
I'LL MAKE DINNER TONIGHT
IT SEEMS YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WENT WELL
LET'S CELERRATE RALPH
NO NEED
LET IT BE WORK OR FOOD IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO WORRY
WHEN HE SEES ME HE GETS GRUMPY ALL OF A SUDDEN
WITH THOSE EYES THAT SAY "HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT TO STAY HERE"
HAS FINALLY COME
THIS DAY

THEN WE JUST END OUT MARRIAGE OF CONTRACT
RALPH MOVES ON SO QUICKLY
WHAT IS THIS, "EXTENDED CONTRACT"...
I'M... NOT EVEN 21 YET
ACCORDING TO MY FATHER'S WILL I MUST REMAIN YOUR WIFE STILL...
COUNTLESS...
A GUEST

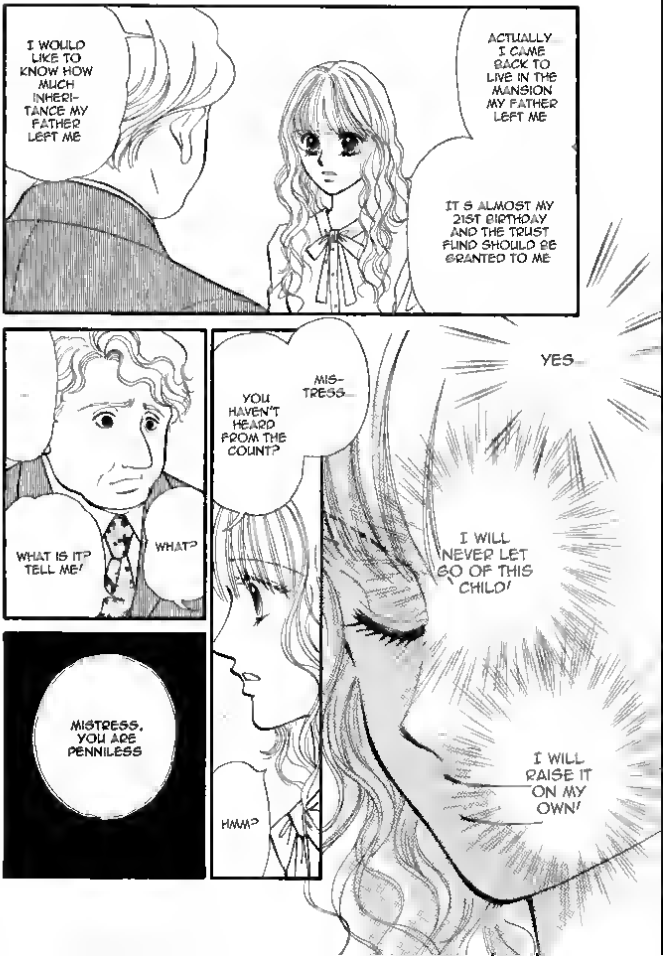
PLEASE BRING US TEA
THERE IS NO NEED I LL LEAVE AS SOON AS THE CONVERSATION IS OVER
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE VALENTINA
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SUDDEN VISIT COUNTESS
YOU ARE GAINING WEIGHT..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TO WOMEN IN MY SITUATION..?
IT S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN HIDE THROUGH
I GUESS IT HAPPENS
TO WOMEN IN YOUR SITUATION.

YOU ARE PREGNANT WITH RALPH'S CHILD RIGHT?
HE ALREADY KNOWS
HOW?!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER
RALPH DOESN'T LIKE TROUBLE SO I CAME TO TALK TO YOU IN HIS PLACE
HOW DOES HE KNOW?! AND YOU..?
IS HE AT YOUR PLACE RIGHT NOW?
YES..
REARING A CHILD RUINS THE FIGURE AND AFFECT WORK SO I DON'T INTEND TO HAVE A CHILD
HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT YOU SOLVED THE PROBLEM.
HE IS VERY HAPPY THAT THERE WILL BE A SUCCESSOR

HE PLANS TO REMARRY ME AFTER THE DIVORCE AND TO BUILD A MANSION IN ROME TO LIVE TOGETHER
SO EVEN AFTER THE CHILD IS BORN, YOU CAN LIVE IN THIS MANSION IN EXCHANGE FOR A DIVORCE FEE
HE WILL TREAT YOU WELL FOR BEARING HIS SUCCESSOR
I HEAR PREGNANCY IS TOUGH TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
PLEASE HAVE A HEALTHY BABY FOR US BOTH
Slam
I EXPECTED IT...
THAT HE WOULD LEAVE ME EVENTUALLY
SLUMP


BUT TO TAKE AWAY MY CHILD?
TO USE ME AS A REPLACE-MENT?
RALPH...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER DO THAT..

I THOUGHT YOU WERE LIVING IN ROME WITH COUNT DI SALIS
I'M SURPRISED BY YOUR SUDDEN VISIT
MISTRESS EMILY?
EVERYONE MUST BE WORRIED BACK AT THE MANSION.
I LEFT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING
ALONE?
WHAT HAPPENED?
AND THE COUNT? IS HE WITH YOU?
Oh, have a seat
YES…
NO, I AM ALONE TODAY


I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MUCH INHERI-TANCE MY FATHER LEFT ME
ACTUALLY I CAME BACK TO LIVE IN THE MANSION MY FATHER LEFT ME
IT S ALMOST MY 21ST BIRTHDAY AND THE TRUST FUND SHOULD BE GRANTED TO ME
WHAT IS IT? TELL ME!
WHAT?
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM THE COUNT?
MIS-TRESS
YES
I WILL NEVER LET GO OF THIS CHILD!
MISTRESS, YOU ARE PENNILESS
HMM?
I WILL RAISE IT ON MY OWN!

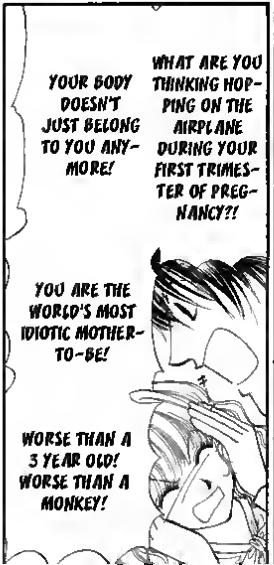
HE WISHED FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.
BY MARRYING THE COUNT, HIS FORTUNE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE YOURS. HIS WIFE'S AS WELL.
MISTRESS COUNT DI SALIS IS A GRAND MAN
YOU SHOULD TALK THIS OVER WITH HIM AGAIN
WHAT...
YOUR FATHER FAILED IN STOCKS TWO YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH AND LOST EVERYTHING. HE HAD NO INHERITANCE TO LEAVE
"OUR FATHER DID NOT LEAVE THE TRUST FUND. IT WAS SOMETHING THE COUNT HAD ESTABLISHED FOR YOU.
WHY DID MY FATHER KEEP THIS A SECRET?
RALPH TOO.
THE COUNT PAID OFF THE DEBT AND LEFT YOU THE MANSION

THIS BELOVED MANSION BELONGED TO RALPH, NOT ME
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME
HE KEPT IT A SECRET
I'M HOME PENNY
WELCOME HOME MISS
UMM
BUT HE LET ME STAY HERE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING
CLICK
ABOUT THE TRUST FUND
ABOUT PAYING OFF MY FATHER'S DEBT

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS..
OH
UMM..
RALPH..
HE CHASED AFTER ME?
RALPH!
great, he h

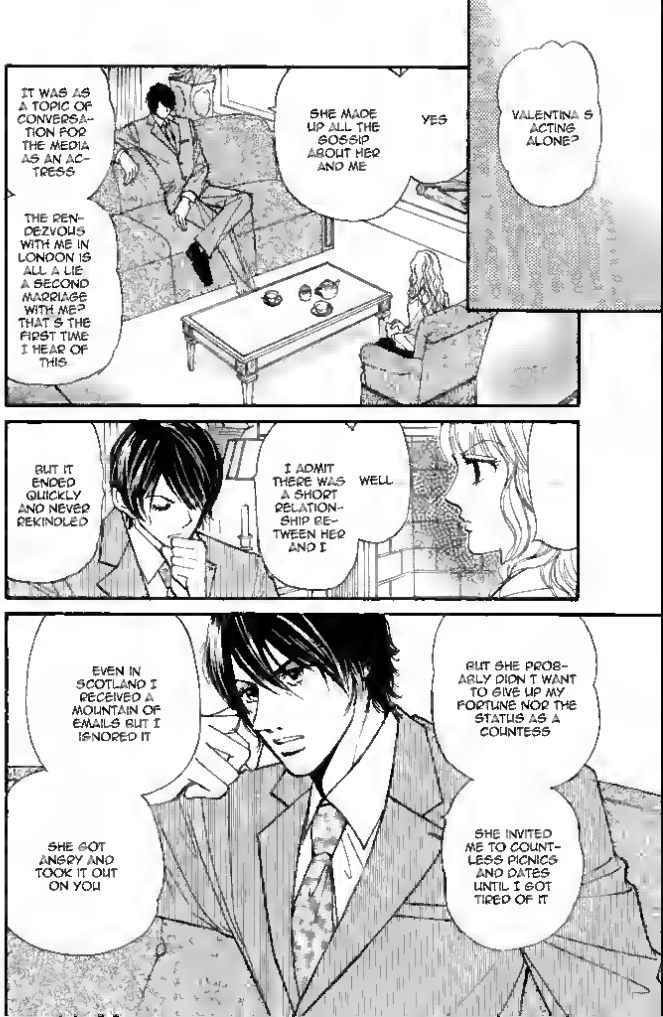
RA
RALPH?
MISS

YOU'RE A MOTH ER-TO-BE!
YOU'RE A
DID HE JUST CALL ME STUPID? RALPH DID?!


YOUR BODY DOESN'T JUST BELONG TO YOU ANY-MORE!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING HOP-PING ON THE AIRPLANE DURING YOUR FIRST TRIMES-TER OF PREG-NANCY?!
YOU ARE THE WORLD'S MOST IDIOTIC MOTHER-TO-BE!
WORSE THAN A 3 YEAR OLD! WORSE THAN A MONKEY!

YOU...
STUPID GIRL!

A MONKEY?
FIRST, YOU SAY I'M LIKE A PUPPY.
NOW A MONKEY?!
YEAH! A DOG OR MONKEY IS 100 TIMES BETTER
ANY WAYS..
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY BECAUSE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR REPLACEMENT WIFE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
REPLACEMENT WIFE?
OR DID YOU COME TO TELL ME I'M PENNILESS
I ACCEPT THE FACT THAT I LOST EVERYTHING
BUT I WILL NOT GIVE UP MY CHILD!
I WON'T LET YOU OR VALENTINA HAVE MY CHILD!
I WILL LIVE ON MY OWN AND RAISE THE CHILD!


VALENTINA S ACTING ALONE?
YES
SHE MADE UP ALL THE GOSSIP ABOUT HER AND ME
IT WAS AS A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION FOR THE MEDIA AS AN ACTRESS
THE RENDEZVOUS WITH ME IN LONDON IS ALL A LIE A SECOND MARRIAGE WITH ME? THAT S THE FIRST TIME I HEAR OF THIS
WELL
I ADMIT THERE WAS A SHORT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HER AND I
BUT IT ENDED QUICKLY AND NEVER REKINDLED
BUT SHE PROBABLY DIDN T WANT TO GIVE UP MY FORTUNE NOR THE STATUS AS A COUNTESS
EVEN IN SCOTLAND I RECEIVED A MOUNTAIN OF EMAILS BUT I IGNORED IT
SHE INVITED ME TO COUNTLESS PICNICS AND DATES UNTIL I GOT TIRED OF IT
SHE GOT ANGRY AND TOOK IT OUT ON YOU

DURING THAT PARTY, I TOLD HER CLEARLY
MY WIFE IS PREGNANT
IT'S POINTLESS TO CONTINUE COURTING ME PLEASE GIVE UP
AND YOU LEFT ME
SHE CAME TO THE MANSION WITH THE INTENSION OF RUINING OUR MARRIAGE
THAT ONE COMMENT MUST HAVE HURT HER PRIDE
BECAUSE I THOUGHT THERE WAS A HOME FOR ME IN LONDON
MONEY TOO
RALPH
TO TRANSFER THE TRUST FUND AND THE MANSION TO ME
WHY DO YOU DO ALL THIS FOR ME?
WHAT DID YOU OWE TO MY FATHER?
WHEN I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE

I HAD JUST ENTERED THE BUSINESS WORLD
I WAS YOUNG AND FULL OF CONFIDENCE A COCKY NOVICE
ONE DAY, THERE WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR A LARGE-SCALE NEGOTIATION I COULD HAVE BEEN A MILLIONAIRE AT 22 YEARS OLD IF ALL WENT WELL
HOWEVER, ONE GENTLEMAN GAVE ME PIECE OF ADVICE
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD
THE OTHER PARTY WILL FEED ON YOUR INEXPERIENCE AND PULL YOU INTO A SCAM DON'T DO IT
IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO YOU'LL END UP IN JAIL.
YOU SHOULD RE-EDUCATE YOURSELF
AND
LIKE HE SAID, THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ALL ARRESTED AND THE PARTY FELL APART
FROM THAT POINT ON, I COULD NEVER FORGET HOW THAT GENTLEMAN SAVED MY CAREER
I PROMISED MYSELF THAT I WOULD ONE DAY HELP HIM IN RETURN

I PROMISED MYSELF THAT I WILL PROTECT THE ONE PERSON THAT HE LOVED, EMILY
THAT GENTLEMAN WAS MY FATHER RIGHT?
AND HE PULLED YOU OUT OF TROUBLE
I..
THOUGHT IF I BELIEVE IN LOVE I WOULD BE HURT
IT WASN'T BECAUSE YOU YOURSELF LOVED ME
BUT THAT WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE MY FATHER LOVED ME AND YOU OWED MY FATHER.
MY MOTHER DIED SOON AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO ME
MY FATHER LOST HIS WILL TO LIVE AFTER MY MOTHER'S DEATH AND DIED A FEW YEARS LATER DUE TO AN ILLNESS
FROM THAT POINT ON, I DECIDED..
BUT DESPITE MY DECISION,
BUT DESPITE MY DECISION, ONE DAY SPRING JUMPED INTO MY LIFE
IF I WERE TO EVER FEEL LIKE MY DAD, ITS BETTER NEVER TO FALL IN LOVE

I'M HOME! FATHER!
YOUR INNO-CENT SMILE
HOW YOU JUMPED AROUND FULL OF ENERGY
HOW YOU STOOD UP TALL AND PICKED FIGHTS YOUR ANGRY FACE
IT ALL MADE MY HEART THROB
AFTER THE FIRST KISS
I FINALLY UN-DERSTOOD THE FEELINGS THAT MY FATHER HAD FOR MY MOTHER

I WANTED TO MAKE YOU MINE
AND I LOST CONTROL OF MYSELF
BUT YOU PLEADED TO INVALIDATE OUR MARRIAGE
THE CONTRACT DID NOT PERMIT US TO BE A REAL COUPLE BUT IF I SAW YOU
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF
BUT... YOU NEVER CAME TO SEE ME AFTER OUR MARRIAGE
I WAITED PATIENTLY FOR YOU TO GROW UP
ACTING ON IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SCANDALOUS
A GROWN MAN AND A GIRL IN HER TEENS
I ENDURED MANY HARDSHIPS AND WHEN YOU FINALLY REACHED OUT TO ME I WAS HAPPY
ATTACKING YOU IN YOUR SLEEP SEARCHING FOR YOU IN THE SNOWSTORM, LISTENING TO HURTFUL WORDS
A CONTRACT OR NOT, I HOPED THAT YOU WOULD ONE DAY ACCEPT ME

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN WISH FOR?
AND NOW, YOU BEAR MY CHILD
RALPH...
HOLD ON
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS PREGNANT?
THE DAY OF THE COUNSELOR'S PARTY..
I STOPPED BY THE HOUSE AND THE PHONE RANG
RRR!!
OH ITS OKAY I'LL GET IT
Hi I am calling from XX-Women Health Center is your wife, Emily Di Salis available?
NO SHE'S NOT HOME RIGHT NOW
WO-MEN'S HEALTH CENTER?

WA. WAIT A MINUTE!
MY WIFE IS PREG-NANT?!
Your wife took a preg-nancy test yesterday,
but did not schedule an appointment for the next visit
I MADE MY WAY TO THE HOS-PITAL
THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE 7 WEEKS PREG-NANT
IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.
THAT'S WHY... YOU SUDDENLY WANTED TO SLEEP IN SEPA-RATE BEDS...
AND YOU WERE WOR-RIED ABOUT MY BODY
THAT'S NOT IT
I WAS EX-CITED, WAIT-ING FOR YOU TO TELL ME THE HAPPY NEWS...
THEN THE DOCTOR WARNED ME
DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF PREGNANCY, RE-STRAIN YOUR-SELVES FROM ANY SEXUAL ACTIVITIES!

BUT YOU DIDN'T MENTION ANY-THING
WATCHING YOU LIKE THAT DAY BY DAY MADE ME FRUS-TRATED
WHY?!
DID YOU NOT WANT TO BE ROUND TO ME?
YOU DIDN'T WANT OUR CHILD?
AND I WAS COLD TO-WARDS YOU
WHAT'S FUNNY?
I GOT SO FRUSTRATED TO A POINT WHERE I NEEDED TO LEAVE THE HOUSE AND CALM DOWN
I STAYED AT A HOTEL IN ROME FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD GET TIRED OF ME AND LEAVE ME ONE DAY
I THOUGHT ONCE I GET PREGNANT, OUR MARRIAGE WILL CONTINUE BUT WITHOUT ANY LOVE.
I COULDN'T STAND SUCH THOUGHT
BECAUSE! COME ON RALPH, WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY YOU THROW A TANTRUM JUST LIKE A LITTLE CHILD!
IT'S MORE CHILDISH THAN ME!
HAHAHA
IT'S END OF ME IF YOU TELL ME THAT..
RALPH
I APOLOGIZE FOR WORRYING YOU
I WAS ALSO VERY WORRIED

I LOVE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART,
BUT I'M NOT LOVED BY YOU
THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS THOUGHT
BUT YOU KNOW NOW RIGHT?
I'M NOT GOING TO GET TIRED OF YOU AND LEAVE YOU
I WON'T TAKE YOUR CHILD AND REMARRY IT WAS ALL IN YOUR HEAD
FOR ME TO NOT LOVE YOU?
IT'S SUCH A MISUNDERSTANDING!
YES
LET'S NULL OUR CONTRACT EMILY
LET'S START OVER FROM THE BEGINNING

I LOVE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
WILL YOU STAY WITH ME FOREVER?
RALPH...
SLEEP WITH ME IN MY BED FROM NOW ON
YES
I LOVE YOU TOO

HOLD ON TO ME AND NEVER LET GO OF ME
I WANT TO LIVE WITH YOU, FIGHT WITH YOU, GET SPOILED BY YOU, AND LAUGH WITH YOU FOREVER...
LOVE ME AND OUR UNICORN CHILD FOREVER

AH...
I PROM-ISE...
THE SUN-SHINE IS SO WARM...
MY SWEET WIFE

IT'S SPRING ALREADY!
I KNOW.

YOUR SMILE AS WARM AS THE SPRING AIR,

FALLING ON ME LIKE THE SUNLIGHT

FOR-EVER